

Ron Kind's Mississippi River Plan

Protecting Our River for Future Generations

The Mississippi River is vital to our economy through recreation, tourism, and navigation; to the health of our natural environment; and to our very way of life. As a founder and co-chair of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Task Force, as well as a co-chair of the Congressional Mississippi River Caucus, Rep. Kind has made the protection of the Mississippi River a hallmark of his work in Congress.

1. Creating Jobs by Supporting Recreation, Tourism, and Navigation

- According to a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service analysis, the Upper Mississippi River has a \$580 billion economic impact on the local economy.
- Fought to ensure water resources legislation included a number of policy priorities for the Upper Mississippi River. These include maintenance and upgrades to our locks and dams for commercial transportation, which creates jobs here at home and strengthens Wisconsin's economy.
- Plans to introduce legislation that will develop a coordinated, public-private approach to studying and reducing nutrient and sediment runoff in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.
- Introduced bipartisan legislation to preserve the natural habitat of migratory birds, which bring thousands of tourists to the region each year.

2. Maintaining Rail Safety

- Authored RESPONSE Act which was signed into law and will improve accident response time and effectiveness, especially after recent derailments polluted the Mississippi with 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel near Ferryville and 18,000 gallons of ethanol near Alma.

3. Supporting the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program

- Long supported and pushed for greater investment in the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program, which outlines a systemic approach providing a well-balanced combination of monitoring, research, and habitat restoration activities.

4. Promoting Conservation in the Farm Bill

- Provided continued leadership for the conservation title in the Farm Bill. As we work on the 2018 Farm Bill, Ron will once again fight for increased funding and strong conservations measures.
- Additionally, Rep. Kind's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Act would give farmers a tax incentive to invest in technologies which can help prevent harmful nutrients from making their way into the river system.

